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U. S. Department of Agriculture

Breeding of Hybrid Corn Calls Holbert and Laible

Two Prominent in Agriculture to Join Funk Organization, New Adviser Is Sought.

The hybrid corn industry claims two more public men in agriculture, Dr. J. R. Holbert of the United States department of agriculture and R. J. Liable, McLean county farm adviser, according to reports confirmed here Saturday by H. H. Miller, general manager of Funk Brothers Seed company. Both will be associated with the seed company here.

Farm Adviser Liable announced his resignation to directors of the farm bureau last week, explaining he expected to become associated with the seed firm by April 1, not only in the production of hybrid corn but also in improvement of seeds, farm services and farm management. His successor as adviser was the subject of a board meeting at the farm bureau Saturday. He will be known as general agricultural adviser for the Funk organization.

Mr. Liable has served as McLean county farm adviser since July, 1931, formerly serving in similar work for three years for the Marshall-Putnam Farm bureau at Henry, and for three years as adviser in Green county. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois college of agriculture and spent five years in the animal husbandry department there.

To Discontinue Plots.

Dr. Holbert, who since 1917 has been in charge of the state-federal corn experiment plots located on the Funk farms, was originally associated with Eugene D. Funk in corn improvement work. His connection with the United States department started when Mr. Funk succeeded in interesting the department in a study of corn diseases and methods of avoiding their damage. He provided the land for the study, and space in the seed house here for headquarters, and "loaned" Dr. Holbert to the department to conduct the studies.

The latter is now slated to become vice president of the Funk firm, to have charge of the corn breeding program. He will be associated with Earl Sieveking, Funk Farm agronomist, and with Mr. Liable in this new program.

Assistants to Dr. Holbert in the state-federal corn plots, Boyd C. Frye and J. W. Hardin, will remain with him.

The United States department of agriculture is expected to discontinue entirely its research work in corn here, combining studies conducted here with those at other stations. The Illinois program of corn study is expected to be announced from the agricultural college and experiment station at Urbana.

Developed Pure Strains.

In the early days of Dr. Holbert's public work here, he developed methods of selection to avoid damage by corn diseases. He washed the entire root systems out of the soil to study growth and disease infection, devised machines to test the pounds pull required to uproot a stalk, or break it over. The result was the utility standard of selection. Refrigerators were used to study resistance to cold and permit better maturity. The disease testing program was one result.

Hybrid corn breeding has been conducted since 1917, but has been widely recognized only in the last few years. By combining disease resistance, cold resistance, even insect resistance, with high yielding abilities in the hybrid strains, this new feature of the work has developed to first in importance. Pure strains of corn developed here are now used in many of the

commercial hybrids marketed in the corn belt. Any valuable strains developed in the future will, of course, be retained as the private property of the local seed firm.

Removals on Farms

Pantagraph Central Illinois Service.

RUTLAND. — Wilgot Anderson, who has been working in Peoria, will farm the J. H. Hodge farm, south of Rutland, the coming season. Paul Carlson and family, who have been living on the Hodge farm, will move to near Opheim. Mr. and Mrs. David Kovacovich Jr. of Tolosa will live on the George Harms farm, west of Rutland, which the Carl Arndt family are vacating and moving to a farm a mile from Vandalia.

Mrs. Michael Barth and family have moved from the former Earl Sullivan farm, south of Rutland, to Minonk. John Lehman and family will move to the farm thus vacated, and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Rossman of Benson will move onto the Meischner farm where the Lehman family have been living.

Ben Onnen and family have moved from the Bassett farm, east of Rutland, to a place east of Wenona. James Baxter and family have moved from near Tolosa to the farm the Onnens vacated.

Ed Stimpert will move to a farm east of Dana, and the Drummet brothers will farm their father's farm where the Stimpert have been living.

DRY GROVE. — Philip Kaufman of Morrison farm. Mr. and Mrs. family who Bloomington man farm.

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Adviser, Corn Worker, Resign



R. J. Liable



Dr. J. R. Holbert

...have resigned their public posts here to enter the Funk farm organization and its program of producing hybrid seed corn. Liable has been McLean county farm adviser since 1931, while Dr. Holbert has since 1917 been in charge of the state federal corn plots which are now to be discontinued.

Rotarians Invite Farmers

Pantagraph Central Illinois Service.

DELAVALAN. — The Rotary club

will hold an open meeting Tuesday at 6:30 p. m. in the Methodist Annex to which farmers of the community are especially invited. Following the dinner W. P. Flint, entomologist Illinois university speaker

Local Yards Lead in Stock Sh.

The Bloomington stockyards lead in stock sh.

TEAR OFF AND MAIL TO FUNK BROS. SEED CO. BLOOMINGTON, ILL.

Funks Hybrid Seed Corn Reservation for 1938

FUNK BROS. SEED CO.

Bloomington, Ill.

Date.....

Reserve For

P. O.

County..... State.....

Direction of Farm from Nearest Town.....

No. Bushels

It is understood this reservation is subject to my approval of price and Funk Bros. Seed Co. being able to supply Hybrid Seed Corn from crop produced in 1937.

On or before January 1, 1938, I am to be notified as to price and whether or not seed can be supplied.

My approximate five-year average corn yield is bushels per acre.

